

## **USDA Celebrates American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month**

During the month of November, USDA will celebrate American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month. Each year USDA participates in this national celebration to honor the generations of American Indians and Alaskan Natives whose rich ancestry and traditions have added to the character of our country.

USDA's opening ceremony for American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month will be held on November 1, 2007, at 10:00 am in the USDA Jefferson Auditorium in Washington, DC. The theme for the ceremony is "Singing Our Stories in Our Own Voices: A Celebration of Native Culture through Music and Song." The opening ceremony will showcase cultural performances by "One Voice," an American Indian/Alaska Native singing and dance group from North Carolina. Acting Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Conner will open the ceremony and speak about USDA accomplishments in Indian country and highlight the provisions in the 2007 Farm Bill benefitting American Indians and Alaska Natives. The event is open to all USDA employees.